



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

April 28, 2017

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1371717-000
Subject: OLSON, FRANK

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed is one CD containing 8 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Please be advised that additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for the requested subject, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Hardy", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

Subject: FRANK R. OLSON

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO Mr. W. R. Wannall *WKA*

FROM A. B. Fulton *ABF/AYC* b7C

SUBJECT FRANK R. OLSON
INFORMATION CONCERNING

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
1 - Mr. D. W. Moore
1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
DATL 7/14/75

Assoc. Dir. ☒
Dep. Assoc. Dir. ☒
Dep. Asst. Dir. ☒
Asst. Dir. ☐
Admin. ☐
Comp. Syst. ☐
Ext. Affairs ☐
Files & Com. ☐
Gen. Inv. ☐
Ident. ☐
Inspection ☐
Intell. ☒
Laboratory ☐
Legal Coun. ☐
Plan. & Eval. ☐
Spec. Inv. ☐
Training ☐
Telephone Rm. ☐
Director Sec'y ☐

This is to advise of the results of a search of FBIHQ files and references regarding the captioned individual.

The "New York Times" 7/11/75 edition contains an article concerning captioned, who has been identified as the individual described in the Rockefeller Commission Report as an [redacted] and who subsequently jumped to his death from a New York hotel on 11/28/53. The article further reports that the Detective who investigated the apparent suicide contacted SA George M. Dalen of our New York Office (NYO) in view of Olson's "important positions" with the U. S. Government.

Our files reveal in 1953, Mr. Olson was a civilian researcher in biological warfare at Fort Detrick, Maryland. According to the "New York Times" article, in a report on Mr. Olson's death, New York Police Detective James W. Ward said that "due to the important positions held by the deceased and Lashbrook (who accompanied Olson to the Statler Hotel) with the U. S. Government, the facts of this case were related to FBI Agent George Dalen by telephone."

[redacted] b7D
[redacted] At the time of his [redacted] was assigned the [redacted] at the time of Mr. Olson's death. Review of [redacted] Bureau [redacted] was negative regarding any reference to receipt of information from [redacted] The file does not contain information regarding the current whereabouts of [redacted] however, in December, 1962, inquiry was made of the Bureau by the pre-employment investigation unit, [redacted] Washington, concerning [redacted] with the FBI. [redacted] last known residence address (9/59) was [redacted]

Enclosures (2)

HWP:dsh
(8)

b7C

CONTINUED - OVER

b7C

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
RE: FRANK R. OLSON

Review of the [redacted] October
through December, 1953, was negative regarding any reference
to Mr. Olson's death, or [redacted] reported contact
with SA [redacted]

b7C
b7D

Review of FBIHQ files and references concerning
captioned subject, and variations of subject's name, resulted
in nothing relative to [redacted] reported contact or
Mr. Olson's death.

Review of FBIHQ files and references concerning
[redacted]
New York City with Mr. Olson on 11/24/53 and who was also
attached to the Fort Detrick facility), was negative as
concerns Mr. Olson's death, or [redacted] reported
contact with SA [redacted]

b7C

New York teletype 7/11/75 (copy attached) details
check of NYO files regarding subject, and extent of press
inquiry concerning reported contact of [redacted] with
[redacted] New York files contain no information identifiable
with Olson, [redacted]

Attached for information is copy of "New York Times"
article of 7/11/75.

ACTION:

None. For information.

012
11/24/75
WPR
4/15/75
PLM
K

Detective Said Scientist Had 'Severe Psychosis'

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

A civilian scientist who had unwittingly participated in a Central Intelligence Agency drug experiment had been diagnosed as suffering from "severe psychosis and delusions" before he plunged to his death from a 10th floor window of the Statler Hotel in mid-Manhattan 22 years ago, according to a police report of the incident.

The report said that the scientist, Frank R. Olson, a high-level civilian researcher in biological warfare at Fort Detrick, Md., had spent four days in the city undergoing psychiatric analysis immediately before his death and that arrangements had been made for him to enter the Chestnut Lodge sanitarium in Rockville, Md.

Mr. Olson's wife, Alice, and their three children said in an interview with The New York Times on Wednesday that they had not learned the circumstances of Mr. Olson's death until last month when the Rockefeller commission disclosed that C.I.A. files showed a suicide had occurred during a 10-year agency program of administering the drug LSD to unsuspecting subjects to learn its effects.

Plan to Sue C.I.A.

At a news conference in the backyard of the Olson home in Frederick, Md., yesterday, the family repeated its intentions to sue the C.I.A. for several million dollars for the "wrongful death" of their father and husband.

According to the police report written by Detective James W. Ward, who retired in 1970, Mr. Olson had come to New York on Nov. 24, 1953 with Col. Vincent Ruwet, who was also attached to Fort Detrick, and checked into the Statler Hotel.

Mr. Olson was examined twice by Dr. Harold Abramson, a physician who had offices at 133 E. 58th Street and who had been one of the first Americans to study the effects on people of the powerful mind-altering drug LSD, the report said. Then Mr. Olson and Colonel Ruwet returned to Washington on the morning of Nov. 26.

Detective's Report

Then, on that same afternoon, the police report continued, Mr. Olson returned to New York, accompanied this time by a man who identified himself as Robert Lashbrook.

and said he was a consultant chemist who, like Mr. Olson, worked for the Defense Bureau of the War Department.

"They again visited the doctor and as a result of this visit Olson was advised to enter a sanitarium as he was suffering from severe psychosis

and delusions," Detective Ward wrote.

It was at that point—apparently sometime during the 27th—that arrangements were made for Mr. Olson to enter Chestnut Lodge under the supervision of "a Doctor Fort," the detective reported.

That evening, Detective Ward reported, Mr. Olson and Mr. Lashbrook had dinner in the Cafe Rouge of the Statler Hotel and returned to Room 1018A at approximately 9:30 P.M. They watched television for about an hour, the detective said, and then went to sleep.

Then, Detective Ward said, Mr. Lashbrook told him that at approximately 3:20 A.M. he was awakened by a "crash of glass." Mr. Lashbrook reportedly told the detective that he turned on the light, saw that Mr. Olson was not in his bed and realized that the window facing 7th Avenue was broken.

Mr. Lashbrook told Detective Wards that he had called the hotel operator and "at this time, learned that Olson had jumped out of the window," the detective reported.

Detective Ward said that his report was based on information given to him by Mr. Lashbrook but that he had verified the facts in interviews with Colonel Ruwet and Dr. Abramson.

The detective's account, however, was at odds with a description of the death given Wednesday in a statement by the Olson family in which they said that "Olson's widow was later told that her husband's escort was awakened about 1:30 A.M. to see Olson going at a full run toward the window. He said he saw Olson go through both the closed window and a drawn shade."

Reached yesterday, Colonel Ruwet refused to comment on the death saying, "I'm seeking legal counsel, not because I've done anything wrong but I've got to know where I stand legally," since the Olsons have made clear they are going to be filing a suit.

Detective Ward, who teamed the death a suicide, in his report, said that an autopsy had been performed by the Assistant Medical Examiner Dr.

Dominick J. Dineale, who determined that the cause of death was "multiple fractures."

Detective Ward said in his report that "due to the important positions held by the deceased and Lashbrook with the U.S. Government, the facts of this case were related to F.B.I. Agent George Dalen by telephone." The detective made no mention of the C.I.A. and efforts to reach him yesterday were unsuccessful.

Dr. Abramson began working with LSD in 1951, two years before Mr. Olson's suicide and

two years before Sandoz Pharmaceuticals began distributing the drug to American researchers.

The doctor's secretary said yesterday that Dr. Abramson would not comment about the Olson case or his early work with LSD.

In 1959, Dr. Abramson told a scientific meeting on LSD that at the outset many of his colleagues opposed his work with the drug, regarding him as "a sort of psychiatric Dracula."

yst _____

Ext. Affairs _____

Files & Com _____

Gen Inv _____

Ident _____

Inspection _____

Intell. _____

Laboratory _____

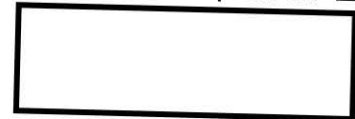
Plan & Eval _____

Spec Inv _____

Training _____

Legal Coun _____

Telephone Rm _____



96-1322
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/19/96 BY SP5BCE/RJ
SP5BCE 8/14/96 #389349

ECROWICK (LAST)

The Washington Post _____

Washington Star-News _____

Daily News (New York) _____

The New York Times _____ 34

The Wall Street Journal _____

The National Observer _____

The Los Angeles Times _____

Date

7-11-76

62 80720 502

"Rumors were brought to me of suicides caused by LSD," he said in the published proceedings of the meeting, adding that "I must say that the same case was repeated in different anecdotes for several years."

He did not say that he had personal knowledge of anyone who had committed suicide following LSD, but he conceded that "extremely violent reactions do occur under LSD" and advised that large doses should be given only if a hospital is nearby.

Dr. Abramson, who worked with the drug for more than a decade, was particularly interested in its potential for unraveling the possible biochemical bases for mental illnesses. Prior to his LSD studies, which initially involved persons he saw in his private practice as a psychiatrist, Dr. Abramson had been a psychological consultant for the United States Department of the Army.

The doctor told the 1959 meeting that he himself experienced an adverse reaction following unwitting exposure to LSD, which he may have accidentally inhaled or absorbed through the skin while conducting an experiment on snails.

Suffering from the start of a cold, the doctor related, "I began to fantasize that I had a virus encephalitis. I decided I was going to die." He said he

became increasingly apprehensive until he realized that he was actually suffering from an LSD reaction, and knowing it would soon be over, he relaxed.

His account stimulated Dr. Sidney Cohen, psychopharmacologist at the University of California in Los Angeles, to comment that it is essential that patients be told that they were given a potent drug that could cause psychotic-like reactions.

Dr. Cohen recalled a case in which a woman had been given LSD and then committed suicide immediately thereafter because she had no awareness of why she was becoming psychotic.

In an interview yesterday, Dr. Cohen said that a suicidal impulse can result from LSD when "things change inside and out and the person thinks he is going mad or when some unconscious material is uncovered that is terribly stressful and causes the person to crack up." In a sense, LSD can release previously repressed demons in the mind as well as cause terrifying hallucinations.

Dr. Abramson, who was born in 1909 and studied medicine at Columbia University, is the author of more than 200 professional publications, including a book on the use of LSD in psychotherapy and alcoholism.

Much of the LSD research done by him and others in the nineteen-fifties was sponsored by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. Many who conducted LSD research were stimulated to do so by the early findings of Dr. Abramson.

The doctor currently maintains practices in Manhattan and on Long Island and is a consulting research psychiatrist at State Hospital in Central Islip and director of research at South Oaks Psychiatric Hospital in Amityville.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR011 NY PLAIN

3:11 PM URGENT 7/11/75 PJS

TO DIRECTOR

FROM ADIC NEW YORK (66-7479)

ATT: INTD

ATT: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

FRANK R. OLSON, DECEASED EMPLOYEE OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ARMY,

NOVEMBER 1953; [REDACTED]

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING.

RE BUREAU TELCALL TO NEW YORK JULY 11, 1975 AND NEW YORK
TELCALLS TO BUREAU.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS NEWSPAPER AND NEW YORK TIMES
NEWSPAPER, BOTH DATED JULY 11, 1975, IN REPORTING ALLEGED
SUICIDE OF FRANK R. OLSON, SET FORTH IN ARTICLES THAT NYCPD
REPORT FILED BY DETECTIVE JAMES W. WARD INDICATED REPORT
FORWARDED TO FBI. SPECIFICALLY, DAILY NEWS STATES THAT WARD
FORWARDED INFORMATION TO FBI AGENT GEORGE DALEN. NEW YORK TIMES
SPECIFICALLY STATES DETECTIVE WARD SET FORTH IN HIS REPORT THAT
"DUE TO IMPORTANT POSITIONS HELD BY THE DECEASED AND LASHBROOK
(ROBERT LASHBROOK, IDENTIFIED AS CONSULTANT CHEMIST FOR DEFENSE
BUREAU OF WAR DEPARTMENT) WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE FACTS
OF THIS CASE WERE RELATED TO FBI AGENT GEORGE DALEN BY TELEPHONE".

FILES OF NYO CONTAIN NO IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION
CONCERNING FRANK R. OLSON. ALL REFERENCES TO THIS NAME ARE

Assoc Dir	_____
Dep-A D-Adm	_____
Dep-A D-Inv	_____
Asst Dir	_____
Admin	_____
Comp Syst	_____
Ext Affairs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Files & Com	_____
Gen Inv	_____
Ident	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan & Eval	_____
Spec Inv	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun	_____
Telephone Rm	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

b1

7/14/75
96-132
4/1/96
SPENCER

5
171

NY 66-7479

PAGE TWO

SUBSEQUENT TO NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT NOTING OLSON DECEASED
NOVEMBER FIFTYTHREE. ONE REFERENCE DATED NINETEEN THIRTYSEVEN
DESTROYED. FILES AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION REQUESTED TO MAKE
HEADQUARTERS CHECK.

[REDACTED] LISTED IN NYO RECORDS AS SPECIAL
AGENT HAVING ENTERED ON DUTY WITH BUREAU [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] FROM
[REDACTED]

b7C

ADIC RECEIVED TELCALL FROM [REDACTED] NY DAILY
NEWS, WHO INDICATED THAT IN REVIEWING NYCPD REPORT CONCERNING
OLSON'S SUICIDE, DETECTIVE SET FORTH THIS REPORT WAS SUPPLIED TO
SA [REDACTED] OF THE FBI. AT TIME OF CALL, [REDACTED] WAS
INFORMED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE LOGICAL FOR FBI TO CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION INTO SUCH A MATTER DUE TO LACK OF JURISDICTION
AND THE ONLY CONCEIVABLE ACTION THAT WOULD BE TAKEN WOULD HAVE
BEEN TO FORWARD ANY SUCH REPORT, IF IN FACT RECEIVED, TO THE

NY 66-7479

PAGE THREE

INTERESTED EMPLOYING AGENCY WHICH IN THIS INSTANCE WOULD
HAVE BEEN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ARMY. [REDACTED] WAS ADVISED,
HOWEVER, THAT A CHECK WOULD BE MADE AND HE WOULD BE FURTHER
CONTACTED. [REDACTED] IS GOING TO BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO
RECORD OF ANY REPORT HAVING BEEN RECEIVED AND FORMER SA [REDACTED]

b7C

IN ADDITION TO [REDACTED]

b7C

IS MENTIONED IN THE ABOVE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES. NYO INDICES
CONTAIN NO REFERENCES TO THESE NAMES.

NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN BY NYO.

END

SMD FBIHQ CLR

66-7479